LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER

www.lebanon.va.gov

CONTACT:
Douglas A. Etter
Manager, Public & Community Relations
717-272-6621, ext: 6079
Douglas.Etter@va.gov

Optometry Appointments Available for Direct Schedule by Veterans
Initiative Gets Veterans Into Eye Care Appointments Quicker

For Immediate Release – Jan. 19, 2017

LEBANON, Pa. – Veterans receiving care at Lebanon VA Medical Center are now able to directly schedule routine optometry appointments without a referral. This change is part of an access initiative implemented in 2016 that initially provided Veterans the ability to directly schedule audiology appointments.

"All Veterans that are eligible for VA care can receive ocular health exams. Veterans who are enrolled with Lebanon VAMC can now pick up the phone and directly schedule an optometry appointment with the scheduling line," said Dr. Rebecca Sterner, optometry chief at Lebanon VAMC. "Primary care providers will now have more time to care for Veterans, rather than generating routine optometry referrals."

Lebanon VAMC's Optometry Clinics provide eye exams at the Lebanon VAMC and VA Community Clinics in Camp Hill, York and Lancaster. A typical eye exam can take about one to two hours and will routinely include a refraction and dilated examination to check for glasses and monitor ocular health, including screening for diseases like glaucoma, macular degeneration, cataracts and diabetic eye changes. If it is determined that a Veteran needs eyeglasses, eyeglasses will be provided. An eye exam can be scheduled by calling (717) 272-6621 or 1-800-409-8771 then extension 5105 (scheduling line). Veterans unsure about their VA health care eligibility can contact enrollment at extension 6000.

Before this initiative was implemented in that last half of 2016, Veterans seeking appointments with optometrists had to first make an appointment with a primary care physician for a referral for a routine clinic consult visit. The new optometry process is part of the VA's Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative, which began as a successful pilot at three sites in 2015 and is being expanded to all VA Medical Centers.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center is one of 168 medical centers in the nation with the sole purpose of providing world-class medical care to America's Veterans. If you are Veteran, you may be eligible to receive care and benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To learn more, call 717-228-6000.

For more information about the Lebanon VA Medical Center, visit www.lebanon.va.gov, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VALebanon, or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VALebanon.

# # #